



Farmers Exchange

Box 296—'Phone 92



MOUNDS, ILLINOIS

January 31, 1945

Mr. Abe Manley
71 Crawford Street
Newark, New Jersey

Dear Friend Manley: I received your letter yesterday and am hastening to answer due to the fact that I believe the Negro owner is just about at the end of the rope as far as baseball is concerned. This will be his final year of activity, unless he takes advantage of every offer that is being made now.

This does not mean that there will not be some Negro teams, but I mean every Negro big league owner will have muffed the final chance to get into organized baseball.

I waited on your answer, but the delay was so long, despite your good intentions, that I met recently with the United States League and believe that I will join that organization. Its program is more constructive, its chances are greater, and its success is just about insured for the coming years.

You are aware that the Negro American and National Leagues were unable to get any satisfaction from the Robinson deal; now it also has the Partlow case on its hands. Both players were signed from what are termed the two strongest teams in each circuit. Their argument last fall to Commissioner Chandler was met with a "clean your house"...but they are not doing so...hence they do not intend doing do...and if they do I doubt if the leagues with the present heads could enter the national organization.

I hold the highest respect for both you and Alex Pompey; since sitting in on the newly constructed United States league I am convinced that it is a pity that two fine men as you two did not attend. The loop would be a distinct advantage to you and your players...by joining now it is possible that you will avoid quite a few complications that might arise....furthermore, if the Negro owner does not perfect a league capable



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of being recognized, then in another year or two, white baseball men are going to step in, organize a Negro loop, perfect it, apply for admission to the Minor league circuit of National Professional Baseball and every Negro club will be raided, and owners who are now struggling on with the present Negro setup, will be left out in the cold and with no redress....I am certain that any thinking business man, regardless of baseball, can see this handwriting on the wall.

The United States league is making rapid strides in perfecting its loop...it may be well for you and Pompey to take a good look at the setup with an eye to becoming part of the loop or arranging your schedule to fit in with ours.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Allen Johnson'.

Allen Johnson